



Alexandria Library

Rose Dawson, Director

“Learn, Explore, Create, Connect”





"I read a story about this place on the Internet. But I didn't think it actually existed."

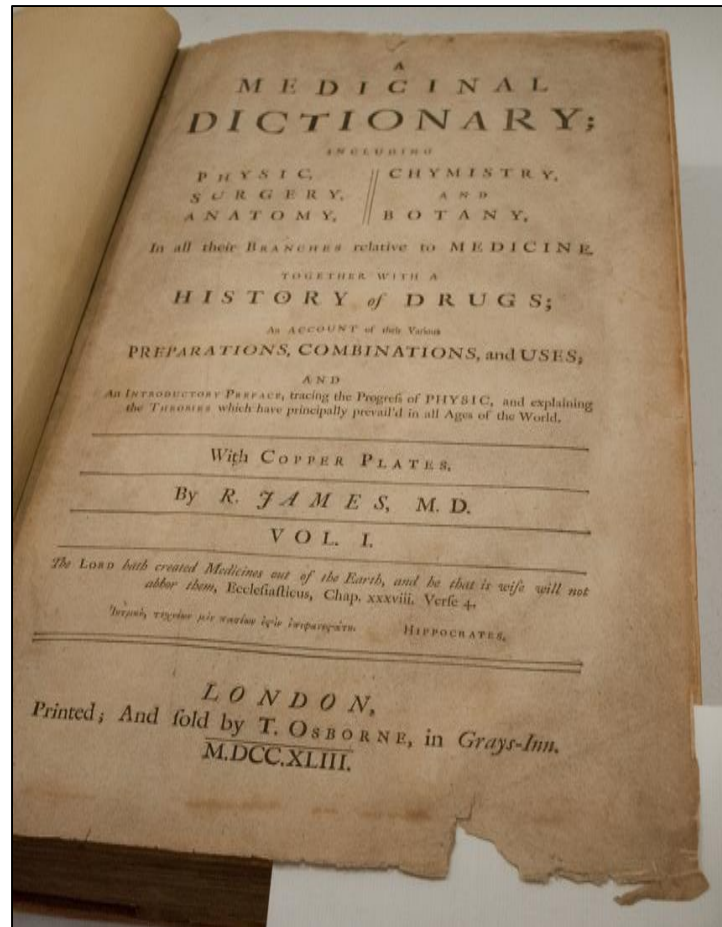
Good bye!



A BRIEF HISTORICAL SKETCH...

Alexandria Library Company was founded July 24, 1794.
Which of the following were NOT included in the Company's earliest addresses?

- a) Mr. Stabler's Apothecary Shop
- b) Old City Hall
- c) The Lyceum
- d) Masonic Temple
- e) Peabody Hall



THE TALE OF TWO LIBRARIES



In 1937:

- Dr. Robert South Barrett and Dr. Kate Waller Barrett
- The Society of Friends and 99-year lease
- Alexandria Library Company collections
- The City line item and its budget.

1939 LIBRARY SIT-IN

ROBERT H. ROBINSON LIBRARY



LIBRARY LEADERSHIP



Oscar P. Fitzgerald
Vice Chair



Robert Ray IV



Karen Marshall



Kathleen Schloeder
Chair



Patsy Rogers

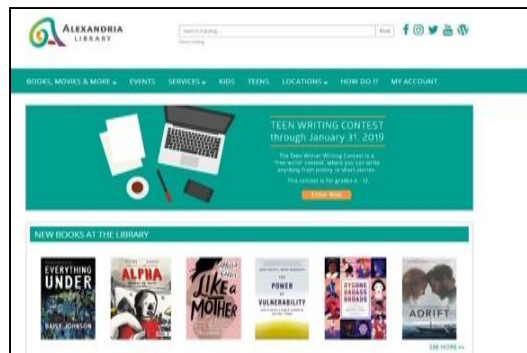


Trudi Hahn
Secretary



Elizabeth Bennett-Parker
Vice Mayor

THE ALEXANDRIA LIBRARY



KATE WALLER BARRETT BRANCH LIBRARY 717 Queen Street



- Built in 1937
- Renovated in 1995
- Size: 25,000 sq. ft.
- Patron count: 111,749
- Circulation: 213,972
- Foundation Center

CHARLES E. BEATLEY, JR. CENTRAL LIBRARY 5005 Duke Street



- Opened in 2000
- Size: 62,400 sq. ft.
- Patron count: 372,557
- Circulation: 596,664
- Designed by Michael Graves
- Named after mayor
- Has Reading Garden

ELLEN COOLIDGE BURKE BRANCH LIBRARY 4701 Seminary Road



- Built in 1968
- Closed in 2000
- Reopened in 2002
- Size: 20,234 sq. ft.
- Patron count: 99,527
- Circulation: 125,412
- Housed on 2nd floor
- 2002-2014 shared building with ACPS IT department and ESL program

JAMES M. DUNCAN, JR. BRANCH LIBRARY

2501 Commonwealth Avenue



- Opened in 1969
- Size: 13,130 sq. ft.
- Patron count: 158,646
- Circulation: 336,014
- Expanded in 2005
- Green roof

LOCAL HISTORY/SPECIAL COLLECTIONS BRANCH LIBRARY 717 Queen Street



- Formerly in Lloyd House
- Moved to Barrett in 2000
- Size: 4,928 sq. ft.
- Patron count: 10,854
- Circulation: 7,602
- Resources related to Alexandria, VA, American history

LAW LIBRARY

520 King Street, LL34



- Became branch in 2015
- Size: 3,520 sq. ft.
- Patron count: 3,585
- Circulation: 8,750
- Located in Courthouse basement
- Provides legal resources
- Westlaw and LexisNexis databases

ONLINE PRESENCE

Website & Online Catalog



- Libraries website = virtual branch
- Manage library accounts online, pay fines and fees, place holds
- Ebooks, eaudiobooks, emagazines, digital movies and music, databases

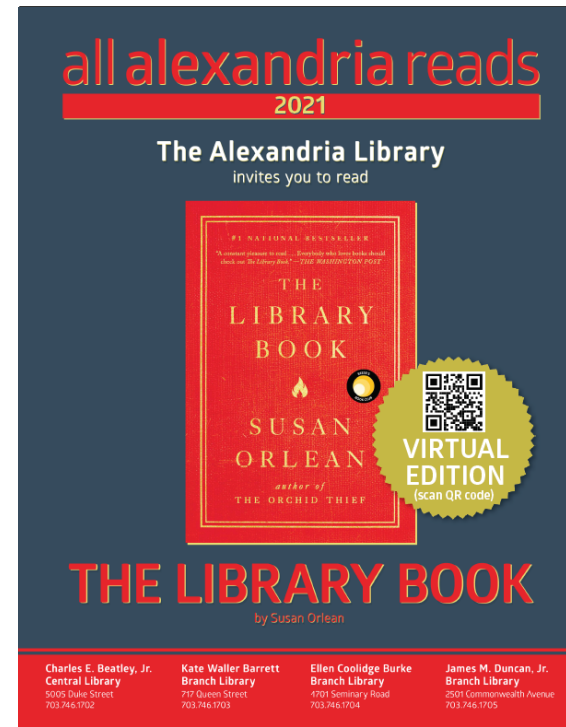
Social Media

FB, Instagram, Twitter -
@alexlibraryva

Online Blog

'Out of the Stacks' Adult Services Blog -
<http://bit.ly/OutOfTheStacks>

PROGRAMS - ADULT



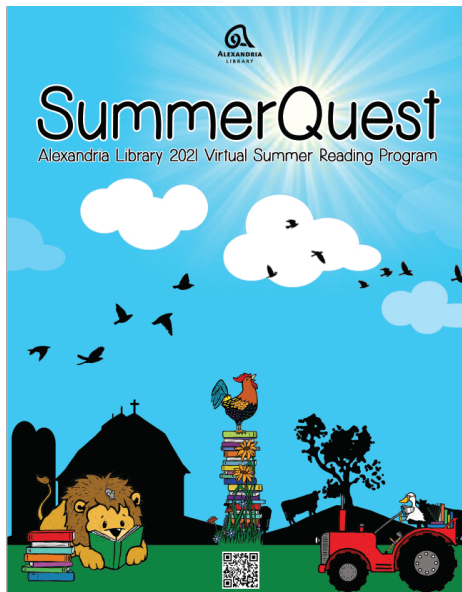
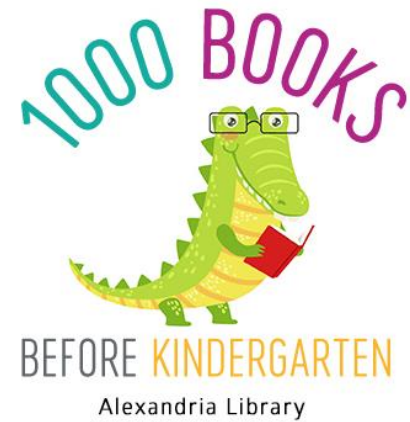
PROGRAMS - TEENS



GALE
COURSES

T.A.B
Teen Advisory Board


PROGRAMS - CHILDRENS



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SERVICES



SPECIAL EVENTS

Alexandria Gazette Packet

SERVING ALEXANDRIA FOR OVER 200 YEARS • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

AUGUST 22, 2019

25 CENTS



Crowd gathers at the Contrabands and Freedmen Cemetery Memorial.

400 Years of Slavery

Gathering honors victims, addresses Alexandria's role in slavery.

BY LIAM BOWMAN
GAZETTE PACKET



Reverend Joseph Thompson addresses the crowd in front of the former Franklin & Armfield slave market, now Freedom House Museum.

In August 1619 a group of privateers sailed into the mouth of the James River and landed at Point Comfort — an English foothold in the seemingly boundless tidal marsh of coastal Virginia. The colonists gathered to watch as 20 Africans bound in chains were forced out into the humid summer air. These men were sold to wealthy planters as property, becoming the first enslaved Africans in Virginia. The slave trade grew from there and soon many port cities, including Alexandria, were profiting by selling Africans into bondage.

The Pilgrimage for Racial Justice on Friday, Aug. 16, marked the 400th anniversary of the first enslaved African people to arrive in Virginia. The event was aimed to honor the thousands of Africans who suffered enslavement, as well as call attention to the role Alexandria played in the slave trade.

As the sun set Friday evening, around 100 people gathered for prayers and hymns at the Contrabands and Freedmen Cemetery Memorial on Washington Street, which serves as the final resting place for almost 2,000 escaped slaves. The crowd of local citizens, led by representatives from the Episcopal Diocese of Southwestern Virginia

SEE CITY'S ROLE, PAGE 17

Protesting 'Whites Only' Library

1939 Library Sit-In ignited Civil Rights era.

BY JEANNE THIESMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Kimberly Evans-Reed was confused. She couldn't understand why her brother was being escorted out of a building by a police officer. But her mother told her to look again at the photograph. It was dated Aug. 21, 1939, and the familiar face in the photo was her grandfather, William "Buddy" Evans, one of five African American men who walked through the doors of the "whites only" Alexandria Library in what many believe to be the earliest protest of the Civil Rights era.

"My granddaddy never talked about it," Evans-Reed said at an Aug. 19 reception commemorating the 80th anniversary of the Alexandria Library Sit-In. "He only mentioned it once when I was about 10. It wasn't until I saw a photo in the newspaper a few years ago and thought 'What's my brother doing with a police officer?' They look identical but it was then that my mother explained the significance of what he had done."

Evans-Reed and her sister, Sonya Patrice Evans, were joined at the reception by four generations of the Evans family at the Barrett Branch Library on Queen Street, the site of the 1939 protest that saw her grandfather and four others arrested for entering the "whites only" building.

"I'm here to celebrate the big, big thing that my granddaddy did



Rose Dawson, executive director of the Alexandria Library, and City Councilwoman Amy Jackson hold a framed poster of the 1939 protest during the Aug. 19 ceremony commemorating the 80th anniversary of the sit-in.



Attorney and Civil Rights trailblazer Samuel W. Tucker was the organizer of the 1939 Sit-In at the Alexandria Library.

by walking into this library," Evans-Reed said. "William 'Buddy' Evans set the tone for our entire family to do great things."

SEE I WILL ALWAYS, PAGE 6

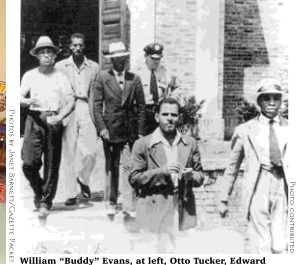
PIECE BY VIRGINIA
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News



Family members of William "Buddy" Evans hold individual framed photos presented as a commemoration of the 1939 Alexandria Library Sit-In Aug. 19 at the Barrett Branch Library. Evans was one of five men arrested during a peaceful protest after being refused library cards.



William "Buddy" Evans, at left, Otto Tucker, Edward Gaddis, Morris L. Murray and Clarence "Buck" Strange are escorted by police out of the "whites only" Alexandria Library on Queen Street after requesting a library card on Aug. 21, 1939.

I Will Always Refuse

FROM PAGE 1

Originally called the Alexandria Library, the present-day Barrett Branch Library was built in 1937 to serve the city's white residents. African American residents were denied access even though their tax dollars helped finance the library, forcing those interested in reading to travel to Richmond or Washington, D.C., to use libraries there.

Evans was 19 years old when he agreed to participate in the peaceful protest orchestrated by Samuel W. Tucker, a young attorney who was determined to establish equal access to community resources. Evans was joined by Tucker's younger brother Otto, 22; Edward Gaddis, 21; Morris L. Murray, 22; and Clarence "Buck" Strange, 21. One by one, each entered the library and requested a library card. When they were refused, they

selected a book and sat down to read in silence.

A few blocks away, Tucker waited in his law office for word on the protest. When a panicked library clerk called the police, Tucker called the media and by the time the five men were escorted out of the building, a crowd of more than 300 had gathered outside.

Evans and the others were arrested and charged with disorderly conduct, even though witnesses testified the men were quiet and orderly during their time in the library. Tucker defended the men at trial and the charges were dropped after the arresting officer admitted the men had been arrested for their race and not their behavior.

Tucker used the protest to file a lawsuit to end the exclusion of African Americans from the public library. While a final ruling was never entered in the case, the judge found that no regulation limited the library's use to whites; it was open to Alexandria residents or taxpayers.

Despite the ruling, rather than allow black readers into the library, City Council appropriated funds to build a "colored branch" of the library, which opened in 1940 at the corner of Wythe and North Alfred streets. Named for a freed slave and beloved Alexandria pastor, the Robert H. Robinson Library was constructed at half the cost of the Alexandria Library, had shorter hours and was filled with secondhand books.

When invited to apply for a library card at the Robinson Library, Tucker refused to settle for the city's "separate but equal" solution, saying, "I refuse and will always

refuse to accept a card to be used at the library to be constructed and operated at Alfred and Wythe Streets in lieu of full card to be used at the existing library on Queen Street for which I have made application."

It wasn't until the 1950s that Alexandria's libraries were finally integrated. The Robinson Library closed in 1962 and today is the home of the Alexandria Black History Museum. The groundbreaking sit-in is chronicled in a documentary called "Out of Obscurity," which was shown following the commemoration ceremony.

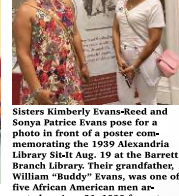
"I had no idea about any of this until five or six years ago," said Sonya Patrice Evans. "My granddaddy was so laid back and it was all about us when we were with him. He really never spoke of it. But I am so very, very proud of him."



Nancy Noyes Silcox holds a copy of her book "Samuel Wilbert Tucker: The Story of a Civil Rights Trailblazer and the 1939 Alexandria Library Sit-In."



Four generations of the William "Buddy" Evans family gather at the Barrett Branch Library on Aug. 19 to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the 1939 Alexandria Library Sit-In. Seated in front are Evans' daughters Joyce Angela Evans Jackson, center, and Beverly Wanner, right, surrounded by children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and a great-great grandchild.



Sisters Kimberly Evans-Reed and Sonya Patrice Evans pose for a photo in front of a poster commemorating the 1939 Alexandria Library Sit-In Aug. 19 at the Barrett Branch Library. Their grandfather, William "Buddy" Evans, was one of five African American men arrested on Aug. 21, 1939 for entering the "whites only" library in what many consider to be the earliest protest of the Civil Rights era.

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COVID-19 SERVICES

Databases remotely (Ancestry, Westlaw)

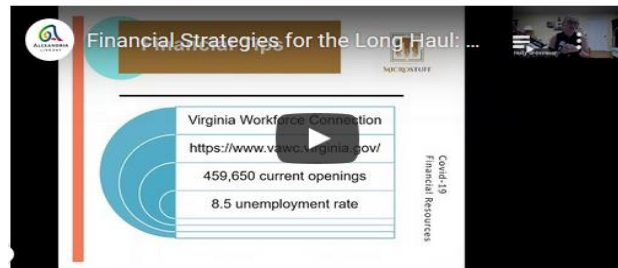
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PARTNERSHIPS



HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?





Questions?

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alexlibraryva.org